

"TRUTH STATEMENT" OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE L.A.R.C.

I would like to start off by informing all members that what I have written here is based on factual information. This information has been attained by me in many ways. Listening to the thoughts, opinions and views of many of the club members, former Presidents, Past and Present executive members and trusted technical advisors have been of the up most importance in what is written here. Research and review was also an instrumental factor in what is written here.

Now that you know the sincerity in this article, I will begin. First off I would like to thank Skip VE3BBS for returning as our Emergency Co-ordinator. With the co-operation of the club members he can update the Amateur Radio Emergency Service for the city of Thunder Bay and surrounding area. I would also like to thank our repeater repair people for the efforts that they put into our club repeaters and in trying to keep them on the air and working as reliable and best that they can. I would like to thank Laurie-BCD, Lindo-NHX Glen-JAU and Bill-XJ for their assistance in rebuilding our UHF link and interfacing our commercial autopatch for VE3YQT.

There has been turmoil and unnecessary grief caused in the L.A.R.C. in the past and everyone blames it on the repeaters. Well I can only shake my head in disgust when I hear individuals say this. The fact of the matter is that the repeaters are not our problem, the problem is US, we the membership of the L.A.R.C. If everyone absolutely refuses to get along with each other (with some individuals trying harder not to get along with others) then we can only expect that there will be desecration amongst us. If everyone says that the L.A.R.C. is making no progress and is going nowhere and all we do is say we don't need this and we don't need that then we will have nothing. If everyone says I do not need all the aggravation I'd rather stay home and work HF than do as you will and we will have less members. My only comment to all of this is that I will do everything in my power and humanly possible to remove those thoughts from peoples minds.

We are fortunate in this club to have such a unique group of individuals, such a talented group of individuals that we are able to accomplish the tasks that we set out to do. We are fortunate in this club to have had a dedicated group of people to build us repeaters and acquire very precious and valuable repeater sites. We have those to thank that have put many hours of their life into this club to get us where we are today.

Before I get down the importance of this letter, I would like to remark on peoples comments that we are a 2M club. We have repeaters for many reasons and most of the time they get used for the less important reasons. BUT, the prime importance of repeaters is to provide communications quickly and efficiently in the event of an unforeseen disaster, accident, fire or anything of

danger to human life or property. Providing communications to the general public for different events throughout the year is also a very important reason for repeaters. Our autopatches play a crucial role in the above and are an added bonus to 2M the rest of the time. The need and demand is there for the equipment and I would like to comment on how it ~~was~~ almost miraculous to see everyone talking to each other, everyone going out for coffee, everyone in a positive spirit this year during the planning stages and during the actual event and that of course was the "Jeep 500" snowmobile race that we provided communications for from the Marina Park to Grank Marais, Minnesota.

On Friday last (April 29) I visited with Mr. Manfred Volbracht Station Engineer for CKPR and he is the individual that is solely responsible for the Mount Baldy transmitter site. I visited him to get permission to gain access to the site this weekend. The intention of our visit was to try and find out what our problem or problem bothering our repeater VE3YQT. These problems cause the repeater to be unusable at times. To have included in this visit was Laurie-BCD, Bill-XJ, Bill-EFC and myself. Lindo-NEX was not able to be there with us because he had to work at the station. Permission was not granted to visit the site this weekend or next weekend for very valid reasons. At this point in the conversation I realized that my visit with Mr. Volbracht was long overdue. In the 30 minutes I was there Manfred and I discussed why the L.A.R.C. is on the tower, our purpose and our value to the community. We discussed the problems we are experiencing at the site and ways to try to resolve them. Our original intent was to try and find our problems in a logical and technical way. By research, by ruling out possible causes. It is not possible to find our problems this way because we are not going to be given access to the site for that purpose. We are jeopardizing the operation of the site by visiting it and he cannot put his job at stake and we have no right to expect him to. Furthermore we don't have the right nor does he appreciate us taking Lindo away from his work by having him escort us to the site everytime we need access. It is the wishes of the station that Lindo be on site when we are there but Lindo is on call and the least number of times we go up to the hill with him the better off for everyone. It would be nice to visit the site once or twice a year to check the battery and routine maintenance. So how do we go about solving our problems. It is the opinion of many of our repeater advisors and outside sources as well that maybe the omnidirectional antenna we have side mounted on the tower is not such a good idea. Manfred, himself a station engineer had to agree with this. Maybe it is time that the L.A.R.C. went with same type of equipment that the commercial users are using on the tower. These users include the ambulance system MOH, both school boards and the areas they serve from their buses, and community repeaters to name just a few. It does not appear to be a problem to change our antenna to one identical to which the other services are using. It would also be in our best interest to upgrade our equipment to a newer vintage to try and get better reliability and utilize the site to the fullest. There are commercial users asking for our spot on the tower and they are willing to pay for it. (We ~~are~~ presently higher than some of the commercial users on the tower and this of course makes those users wonder why we are wearing out our welcome on the tower and at the site in general as things presently stand and it would make CKPR happy to have us upgrade our equipment in the hope that it will cure some of our problems and give us some added reliability. There is no doubt that any unforeseen problem can arise even to new equipment (such as a lightening strike or similar malfunction) and access to the site for such reasons and routine maintenance is not a problem.

By upgrading to brand new equipment we will keep the site owners happy and secure our spot on the tower. There are no guarantees in this world but it is very probable that we will solve our problems that we are experiencing now and will be able to utilize the site to it's fullest. Further to this there is an excellent chance that we will be acquiring a site in the Nipigon Red Rock area and our present YQT would be located there with autopatch capabilities and on a link back to Thunder Bay. Yes folks this is all possible the details are being worked out as I speak. Bill Unger VE3EFC is working on securing the site and we are grateful to him for this (thanks Bill).

To be included in our plan of upgrade is a 6 month trial of our new repeater at the VE3TBR repeater site at the St. Josephs Heritage. This trial or "Burn in Period" will allow us to work out any bugs if there is any and access to the Heritage site is not a problem. The details of this are not of importance now. We also have plans to install a 147.660 receiver at the TBR site to give you handi-talkie coverage of VE3YQT throughout the city. This will be done using our newly upgrade link which has facilities for this and yes you will still have autopatch capabilities using the 147.660 on the link. We have all the necessary equipment in our possession now (some of which was used for old link and is completely suitable for this application with some slight modifications).

Here is the replacement equipment selected by Laurie VE3BCD and in agreement with this is many of our former repeater repair people and still trusted advisors.

New Repeater: GE MSTER II

Duplexers: Sinclair 6 cavity reslocks (1.5db insertion loss)

Antenna: Sinclair 210C4 four bay folded dipole (8-8.5 db gain)

The necessary link equipment e.g. corner reflecting yagis (UHF) for our Nipigon Red Rock link if a link is feasible. (If a link is not possible then autopatch will definatly be installed at the Nipigon Red Rock site).

Included with this article is the letter of apology to Manfred Volbracht for the L.A.R.C.'s foul up that nearly cost us our site at Mount Baldy back in June 1985. I would only like to add to this that nobody can point fingers at anyone for that incident because it was a group effort. We have made mistakes in the past lets realize that and not repeat them.

Also included in this article is a letter from Bill Unger VE3EFC that will give you an idea of what is involved with running a transmitter site for a broadcast station and the reponsibility of it.

Finally I would like to thank Skip VE3BBS for his letter of importance to this and his announcement of returning as ARES co-ordinator (thanks Skip.)

I ask but one thing of you the membership and that is your support in this worthwhile and necessary endeavour (and no we are not asking anyone to sell tickets, this is beyond that). I ask that you show up at the May Club meeting which is on Thursday May 12 at the EMO. This will not be a repeater meeting because there is not a whole lot to talk about in that regard (that is why I called this a fact sheet). At this meeting Bill VE3XJ will be having a slide presentation of previous field days and other events that should be of interest. Anyone else having a few slides that they would like to bring along is welcome to do so.

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I would only like to say the dollar figure we are looking for is in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000 and it is reassuring to know that with the few people that know about this now have nothing but positive comments about raising that dollar figure at the Corporate level and some members have already offered donations. So as you can see we really do care about this club and it is the members moral support that will make an endeavour like this possible.

Thank you for time and co-operation and if you think it took a long time to read this just imagine how long it took me to write it. HI HI

Sincerely your president James St. Cyr-VE3JSC